

BLM News

Bureau of Land Management

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F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E

STEENS MOUNTAIN ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD IN FRENCHGLEN

The next Steens Mountain Advisory Council Meeting (SMAC) is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, September 13-14, 2004, at the Frenchglen School Gymnasium, Highway 205, Frenchglen, Oregon.

On Monday, the SMAC will tour Steens Mountain to visit the North Steens Ecosystem Restoration Project area near Moon Hill Road and a proposed Cooperative Management Agreement site along the Steens Mountain Loop Road. The SMAC will also visit a number of other sites and routes in the vicinity to begin laying groundwork for a Comprehensive Recreation Plan. The field trip is scheduled to begin around 8:00 a.m. at the Bureau of Land Management office and end in Frenchglen around 5:30 p.m.

The SMAC will reconvene on Tuesday at 8:00 a.m. at the Frenchglen School Gymnasium. Agenda items for the morning include updates from the Chair and Designated Federal Official and a follow-up discussion from Monday's field tour. On Tuesday afternoon, information will be shared on a variety of topics including: Home Creek access and potential easements, the recent Riddle Mortar Excavation, Riddle Brothers Ranch sanitary facilities, No Livestock Grazing Area fence removal projects, the Wild Horse Gather Environmental Assessment, and protests to the Andrews/Steens Resource Management Plan. Discussion of the November meeting agenda and any other matters that may reasonably come before the SMAC may also be addressed.

The public is welcome to attend all portions of the meeting, including the field day on Steens Mountain, and may contribute on Tuesday during the public comment period at 11:00 a.m. Those who verbally address the SMAC during the open session are asked to also provide a written statement of their comments or presentation. Unless otherwise approved by the SMAC Chair, the public comment period will last no longer than 30 minutes, and each speaker may address the SMAC for a maximum of 5 minutes.

If you have information you would like distributed to SMAC members, please send it to Rhonda Karges at the Burns District Office, 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, Oregon 97738, prior to the start of the meeting. If you send information or general correspondence to anyone at the Burns District Office and would like a copy given to the SMAC, please write "COPY TO SMAC" on the envelope and enclosed document(s).

For further information on the SMAC or the upcoming field tour and meeting, contact Rhonda Karges at the Burns District Office at (541) 573-4400, weekdays, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.